

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024
Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 10158	Umoja WBS: SB-017236
SMA IPMR ID: 44185	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000642
Project Short Title: CP 3.1	
Project Title: Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	38
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security – ID9607
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Libya
GEF Focal Area(s):	International Waters,Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,376,147.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 5,972,611.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2020-09-14
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2021-04-26
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2021-04-27
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2022-02-16
Date of First Disbursement:	2021-05-04
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 1,326,147.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 964,124.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2026-04-30
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-07-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2026-10-31

1.2 Project Description

The Libyan coast represents the majority of the southern central Mediterranean coastal area in North Africa. It was identified as one of several hotspots of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region. The overall goal of the project is not only increasing the marine protected area coverage in terms of countable areas, but to make sure that those areas are effectively and equitably managed. Setting up an effective, gender equitable, representative and well-connected system of marine and coastal protected areas in Libya as a necessary pre-requirement for achieving Aichi targets in this country. Child Project 3.1 constitutes Component 3 of the MedProgramme: Protecting Marine Biodiversity. It will address the capacity barriers that hinder the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPA network in Libya, namely through the establishment of MPA management support mechanisms in priority MPAs.

This Child Project will include:

- (i) the assessment of the legal and institutional mechanisms for MPAs;
- (ii) the collection and centralization of data on marine biodiversity and ecosystems (national platform); and
- (iii) communication and awareness about MPAs and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

In particular, the specific work in Libya will be focused on advancing the Ain-El-Ghazalah and Farwa Lagoon MPAs towards a phase of operational sufficiency by building the capacity of MPA practitioners, developing the management plan through a step-by-step participatory planning process to ensure the effective protection of ecological and socioeconomic values of the areas. Due to security concerns, the third initial pilot site of El Kouf National was replaced during the first project Steering Committee meeting with the new proposed pilot site of Garah Islands.

The project consists of three Components:

- Component 1: Improving Governance and Management Support. This Component is based on the assumption that establishing effective marine resource governance (including the legislative and jurisdictional framework, policies, and mechanisms used to support decision-making and the rule of law) is a key factor of

the successful management of marine protected areas. Establishing effective marine resource governance requires long-term commitment to develop the formal and informal arrangements, institutional capacity, public engagement processes and social behavior that determines how resources are managed for present and future generations. The aim of this component is the establishment of an operational governance structure for marine protected areas in Libya through four major activities:

- 1) Assess the current governance structure in charge of MPAs in Libya;
 - 2) Conduct a national consultation process to define and adopt the most suitable governance structure for the country;
 - 3) Develop processes and tools to make operational the strategy; and 4) Implement processes and tools on the ground.
- Component 2: Participation and Institution Strengthening. This Component is based on the assumption that the selection, financing and management of marine protected areas should be a participatory process that involves not only the governmental sector, but also the growing civil society sector, which represent local stakeholders and active non-governmental organizations as one of the factors that can contribute to the successful partnership in managing marine protected areas. Component 2 strives to strengthen the institutional and participatory management approach between governmental and nongovernmental key players in the marine protected areas sector in Libya with special focus on fishers. This will be achieved through several activities:
 - 1) Identifying the core CSOs to be involved in the project implementation;
 - 2) Signing of a collaboration agreement between the administration and the core CSOs defining their specific roles in the project implementation;
 - 3) Providing training for CSOs governance staff and local fishers on MPAs identification, management and sustainable fishery; and
 - 4) Developing three collaborative projects between the administration and the CSOs for the co-management of the targeted MPAs in Libya.
- Component 3: Awareness-raising and Communication. This Component is based on the assumption that the message of communication and conservation with all stakeholders, the general public and decision makers is a key to success of the present project. This Component is focused on the adoption and implementation of a communication and awareness raising strategy on marine protected areas in Libya, using traditional means (TV, radio and leaflets) and the trending mass communication platforms that reached wider audiences such as social media and internet sites. This communication component is in line with the MedProgramme's Knowledge Management Strategy, as to increase awareness also with the existing regional and national organizations involved in marine conservation in the Mediterranean and in Libya respectively. UNEP/MAP is the Executing Agency of the Child Project. The participating country is Libya. The Executing Partners are SPA/RAC, WWF Med and IUCN Med.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	UNEP/MAP
names of Other Project Partners	SPA/RAC, WWF Med, IUCN Med
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Hartwig Kremer
UNEP Task Manager(s)	a.i. Isabelle Vanderbeck
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Ruth Irungu
UNEP Support Assistants	Caroline Okana
Manager/Representative	Tatjana Hema
Project Manager	Mohamad Kayyal
Finance Manager	Rachel Kagiri
Communications Lead, if relevant	

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	SP3 - Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Ecosystem Management – EA (a) and (b)SP4 - Environmental Governance – EA (b)SP - 7 Environment Under Review – EA (1)
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity. • Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas • Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	The United Nations Strategic Framework for Libya 2019 - 2022 includes among its priorities: “Strengthen the management of natural resources, particularly water, land and biodiversity.”
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls • Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life • 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
4.1- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity		0,033824	0,033824	Will be confirmed upon completion of project activities
7-Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management		1	1	Will be confirmed upon completion of project activities
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments		2,000 (1,000 Female - 1,000 Male)	2,000 (1,000 Female - 1,000 Male)	Numbers will be confirmed at a later date by the EPs

Implementation Status 2024: 3rd PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	3rd PIR	MS	S	L
FY 2023	2nd PIR	MS	S	L
FY 2022	1st PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Summary of status

This project is the biodiversity protection project of the MedProgramme, a multi-focal area programmatic approach spanning the GEF focal areas of Chemicals and Waste, International Waters, Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation. Taking into account the potentially difficult institutional and operational context in Libya, CP 3.1 has registered good progress in developing national and local capacities to protect Libyan coastal and marine biodiversity and related ecosystem services by preparing the ground for establishing an effective MPA governance and policy framework, that builds on a sound science basis and involve all potential national and local stakeholders in marine ecosystems conservation management.

In the reporting period the project has progressed well on the development of national legal instruments to establish and manage marine protected areas, on the development of the national inventory and preliminary characterization of marine sites of protection interest, on the development of local capacities for MPAs management in the three identified sites either in terms of environmental and socio-economic analysis or in terms of identifying and training local NGOs to be involved in the design of the MPAs management plans and governance schemes. Trainings were prepared including on gender issues and communication and awareness raising actions targeted at multiple levels were further prepared.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 5,972,612
Actual to date:	2,104,800
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: In this reporting period, the EA has documented US\$ 1,216,057 in co-Financing for the project , all of which is in-kind co-financing. This co-financing was mobilized through (i) the In-Kind staff time of UNEP/MAP; (ii) complementary programs, projects or initiatives, Staff time and institutional support; (iii) IMAP-MPA project towards the development of MPAs and monitoring activities in Libya by SPA/RAC; and (iv) In-kind co-financing from the Small-scale Initiative Programme for Civil society Organizations in North Africa (PPIOSCAN Libya) by IUCN-Med.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2024-06-13
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	The stakeholders that the MedProgramme Child Project 3.1 engages in project activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Environment General Authority (EGA)• The Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Authority of Marine Wealth • The Ministry of Interior (Coast Guards) • The Ministry of Defence - Libyan Navy • The National Oil Corporation and Oil companies working at marine area of Libya • Libyan Public Universities • Provincial and Municipal Administrations • Civil Society Organizations (Environmental NGOs) • Local Communities • Private sector <p>All three Project Components are centred on effective stakeholder involvement and participation to project activities. For each pilot site the project aims at establishing a participatory platform to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the management plan. The participatory platform involves 8 CSOs, each of them linked to one of the MPAs based on their background, interest and previous activities as well as representatives of actors from the private sector.</p> <p>The EA also continued the preparation of a wide national dialogue on MPAs management which will be institutionally centred around the National Council for the Protected Areas which is included in the draft law on protected areas. The planned awareness initiatives will have an important role in promoting this national dialogue.</p>
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>Implementation progress with regards to gender mainstreaming can be summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge brief on “Gender Issues in Marine Protected Areas” was further disseminated. This knowledge product has been identified as a valuable resource for building the capacity of CP 3.1 partners as well as other partners across the MedProgramme. This is a good practice example on gender-transformative activities. • Gender technical inputs were included into the call for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Libyan CSOs to participate in the setting and implementation of management plans and governance schemes for marine protected areas in Libya. • Gender technical inputs were also included into the Terms of Reference of the experts to ensure that the socio-ecological

	<p>studies and ecological overview of MPAs are gender-responsive and a gender analysis is undertaken to inform project activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) Terms of reference for the socio-economic study were prepared and published for the three targeted Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Libya, taking into consideration gender needs and opportunities.
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2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p> <p>NA</p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</p> <p>NA</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>The activities of this project are devoted to develop effective and participatory mechanisms and arrangements for managing marine protected areas in Libya. Starting from the social and environmental studies developed by the The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) for supporting the declaration of the Ain Al-Ghazala coastal lagoon and its facing Elba Island and Farwa Lagoon as Marine Protected Areas as well as the development of the respective MPA management plans, the Project aims at addressing in a joint manner the conservation of coastal and shallow marine ecosystems and the improvement of livelihoods and of social conditions of involved local communities so as to prevent the possible consequences of climate related social instability. The integration of environmental protection with spatial planning and economic development and the establishment of integrated inclusive mechanisms for cooperation of all concerned stakeholders could provide a framework allowing to cope with those challenges. In this respect, the EA is putting much attention in the preparatory work allowing to integrate in the coordinated and participative planning process all involved national and local stakeholders. Also, the project's gender mainstreaming activities represent a strong response to the UNEP Safeguard Standard 8 (Gender equity), since gender equality and women's empowerment are being integrated in a holistic manner throughout the technical assistance and knowledge management activities of the Child Projects of the</p>

	<p>MedProgramme. Gender inequality and social exclusion increase the negative effects of environmental degradation on women and girls. Despite recent promising policy and legal reforms, and the full appreciation in the region that women in decision-making spaces can promote sustainable water resource use and management, persistent gender-discriminatory social and cultural norms, unequal access to land, water and productive assets, and unequal decision-making power continue to constrain women and men from equally participating in, contributing to, and benefitting from environmental projects and programs.</p>
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2.8. KM/Learning

<p>Knowledge activities and products</p>	<p>Like all MedProgramme Child Projects, CP 3.1 is expected to contribute to the overall MedProgramme KM activities and to plan own communication, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, awareness-raising, communication, visibility and outreach activities in line with the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy and related tools.</p> <p>The Knowledge Management strategy of the MedProgramme operates at two levels: at the programmatic level (to support the entire portfolio with KM services and products delivered through the Hub Child Project 4.1); and at the individual child project level (with specific outputs and activities that build on the overall programmatic services and are supported by the Med PCU for their execution).</p> <p>Child Project 3.1 has integrated the programmatic KM approach in its project document narrative including the utilization of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform, the contribution to the Annual Stocktaking Meetings, to the social media tools and the networks established with the media. It also foresees a series of dedicated activities and outputs that are being coordinated with the overall KM Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities under Output 2.1: Civil society organizations (CSO) participatory platform, with a focus on gender stakeholders. • Activity 3.1.1: Produce an Intranet/Internet site and on-line magazine to create a shared vision and disseminate the project's progress and lessons learned. • Activity 3.1.2: Design, produce an ad hoc communication material (leaflets, brochures, banners and posters, etc.) for selected audiences and share lessons learned products. • Activity 3.1.3: Develop awareness and communication campaigns and material, on the value and importance of MPAs, targeting the general public, decision makers and particularly youth; Develop and share communication tools/campaigns/initiatives and produce lessons learned products. • Activity 3.1.4: Planning of an ad hoc audiovisual campaign for wide media dissemination. <p>Progress to date include:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participation to the second ASM in April 2024, the establishment of linkages with the other Child Projects and the contributions to the wider Medprogramme dimension; specifically, the 2nd ASM meeting held roundtable discussions on "Marine spatial planning as a tool to improve biodiversity conversation in the Mediterranean region." • The publication of articles, documents datasets and information on project implementation progress into the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform. • The preparation of an "early lessons learned" case study on "Towards conserving and effectively managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Libya." <p>Together with the MedPCU, CP 3.1 Executing Partners are exploring the possibility of publishing the inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya as well as other data needed for the elaboration of MPA management plans, on the GIS-based MapX visualization tools included in the MedProgramme KM online platform.</p> <p>In line with the project calendar, the EA is also advancing on the preparation of planned awareness raising activities in consultation with Executing Partners and relevant programme stakeholders.</p>
Main learning during the period	<p>The involvement of local players is essential for the elaboration of the communication strategy and plan as well as for the design, preparation and implementation of information and awareness raising initiatives in Libya, either at central level or in the pilot sites. Joint and collaborative work will allow define and implement actions that are coherent with the local context and thus maxime their potential impact.</p>

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	<p>The following stories are shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaborative work in the preparation of the draft law on protected areas and how the law is being promoted for approval by the Parliament • For the first time ever, Libyan female stakeholders, together with male stakeholders, meet to discuss biodiversity conservation in the context of the proposed Marine Protected Areas in Libya. The meeting was convened in Tunis, Tunisia, and for the first time an informal group was created where female stakeholders can exchange on this topic, establish linkages with each other (as they do not seem to know each other), and put forward proposals for project implementation. • The high biodiversity value of the Libyan marine waters and the criteria identified for the preparation of the list of 26 sites of high conservation interest, including the socio-economic aspects
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Expanding seascapes under protection and improving protected area management	Number of additional hectares of marine protected areas in Libya.	Two existing MPAs in Libya cover an area of 31,324 hectares. Neither of the MPAs is endowed with on-site management units or sustainable management plans.	N/A	At least 2,500 additional hectares of marine areas under protection in Libya	NA	Progress at the objective level, when measured against the end-of-project targets, has primarily involved the analysis of the legal and institutional framework concerning protected area, the consultation with Libyan involved institutions and organization for establishing the institutional and operational conditions allowing to work towards the achievement of the expected target, the formulation of a draft law on protected areas and the compilation of a list of 26 sites of high conservation interest. The draft law agreed with the relevant national stakeholders has been submitted to the Libyan Parliament for final adoption and approval which is expected to take place during Summer 2024. Also, by declaring the Gara Island as an MPA by the Libyan Ministry of Environment in 2022, the project is concretely contributing to reach the required target.	S
Protection of marine biodiversity in Libya’s Marine Protected Areas	1.1 Existence of a national level governance structure for	No governance structure for	N/A	The National Strategy on	60%	The Draft law on Protected Areas along with the National Strategy for Marine	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
<p>is enhanced through the development of an MPA governance structure at the national level and supported through new on-site management units, sustainable management plans and monitoring programmes and networks.</p>	<p>MPAs, including provisions for on-site management units</p>	<p>MPAs exists in Libya.</p>		<p>Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Libya is considered by the government for approval. The law on protected areas is considered by the government for approval</p>		<p>and Coastal Protected Areas in Libya which is currently being updated, aim at establishing the necessary legal and institutional framework as a first step towards their implementation. For this, in the reporting period, the EA has finalized the draft law on protected areas in consultation with the Libyan stakeholders and submitted it to the legal office of the Ministry of Environment for formal check. The draft law has then been submitted and included in the agenda of the Parliament. The law provides for the establishment of the National Council on Protected Areas which is intended to be the technical decision-making body for protected areas in Libya. On the other hand, a Civil Society Organisation Platform is being established for each pilot site to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the management plans. Following a national call for manifestation of interest, 8 CSOs were selected and were linked to each of the three MPAs to be involved in the management and activities related to each site. Already some training and capacity building for these CSOs are taking place to increase their capacity</p>	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						and capability in the management framework.	
	1.2 Number of additional marine protected areas in Libya having management plans	Ecological and socio-economic surveys exist for the two existing MPAs in Libya; Ain Al-Ghazala (2012) and Farwa Lagoon (2009), but no MPA management plans exist. No fisheries (coastal fish stock) baseline available	N/A	At least one (1) MPA endowed with a management plan in Libya	50%	Nine (9) national consultancies were launched during fall 2023 to update the socio-economic, ecological, and stock assessment not only for Ain Al-Ghazala and Farwa Lagoon but also to include the new site of Garah Island. Results from these consultancies were received and presented to the 8 NGOs, the Ministry of Environment and a number of national experts and decision makers and relevant stakeholders, during a dedicated meeting in Tripoli during 7 May 2024. Notes and comments on the results of these studies were collected and forwarded for the consultants to prepare and submit the final reports. These reports will be edited and translated to Arabic and then communicated to the relevant stakeholders.	MS
	1.3 Number of MPAs that developed strategies to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPAs.	None of the existing MPAs in Libya are under a sustainable management scheme. No site level management	0	At least one (1) MPA under sustainable management scheme	40%	With the results from the 9 consultancies in hand as explained above, the drafting of the management plans for the three sites will commence now and will be submitted later for the Ministry of Environment to pass endorsement and approval.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		units exist for MPAs, but there are local offices of the Environment General Authority (EGA) and the Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC).					
	1.4 Number of sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes	No sites currently monitored for marine megafauna	0	At least two (2) sites covered by marine megafauna monitoring programmes	0	Work not initiated yet	0
	1.5 Number of monitoring networks of marine key habitats	No monitoring networks of marine key habits currently exist. However, 24 marine and coastal sites of conservation interest were preliminarily established in 2012	0	At least two (2) monitoring networks for marine key habitats established	0	Activities related to this output not initiated yet.	0
The governance and sustainable	2.1 Number of training	Three national	N/A	At least five (5)	15%	A questionnaire was distributed among	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
management of MPAs is reinforced through the increased participation of Libyan stakeholders and strengthening of institutional capacities on MPA management and related monitoring activities	sessions for Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA networks planning and management, marine key habitats mapping and marine megafauna monitoring	trainings organized within the MedPartnership (GIS, socio-economic assessment, and stakeholder involvement). There is existing capacity in scientific institutions especially on fisheries, and low capacity on legal, governance and management issues in government authorities. There is no capacity in government institutions to manage or engage in stakeholder planning		training sessions for Libyan nationals (reflecting gender balance) on MPA governance, knowledge, sustainable management, stakeholder engagement and gender dimensions of MPA management		the targeted CSOs during January 2024 to identify their capacity building needs and to identify any challenges that the CSOs are encountering. The results of the questionnaires lead to a meeting on 08 May in which the CSOs were invited to further discuss and elaborate on their requirements and several capacity building themes were identified. These themes will be grouped in 3 Workshops that will take place in each MPA site during summer of 2024. Also, training for specific themes such as Elasmobranchs identification and conservation was provided to members of the CSOs in events such as the Shark Camp which was held in Tunisia during February 2024.	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		<p>processes. There is limited capacity of local EGA and MBRC personnel to manage MPAs, engage stakeholders, and resolve conflicts. There are four environmental conservation NGOs involved in protected areas development in Libya</p>					
<p>Awareness of the value and importance of MPAs is raised at the national level, as a further means of strengthening MPA governance and management</p>	<p>3.1 Number of awareness raising and communication campaigns implemented</p>	<p>Awareness of the value and importance of MPAs is very low. Only a few environmental activists have locally implemented awareness and communication campaigns</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>At least four (4) awareness raising and communication campaigns targeting the general public, fisheries, tourism, coastal management and</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>A communication plan is being developed specifying the communication campaigns and materials to be developed and the audiences categories to be targeted. Target of the awareness campaigns was identified as general public, CSOs, fisheries, tourism, coastal management and urbanization sectors. In this regard, three videos are now under development that will be dedicated to each MPA. The videos will contain information about each MPA,</p>	<p>MS</p>

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
				urbanization sectors.		interview with local communities' members and the relevant stakeholders in each site. These videos will be communicated to the national media channels and will be distributed via the CSOs public networks.	

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Improving Governance and Management Support	Output 1.1: A governance structure for MPAs in Libya developed and submitted for approval	2026-04-30	30%	60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft law on Protected Areas in Libya, after being adapted by the legislative department of the ministry of environment and tailored to the appropriate format, has been channeled through the official procedures of the government and submitted to the parliament for adoption. On the other hand and following the exchanges with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment regarding the development of the national strategy on MPAs in Libya, the terms of reference elaborated 	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					by SPA/RAC and discussed with the Ministry of Environment have been approved. A call for consultancy to hire potential consultants that will assess and update the institutional aspects with regards to the MPAs establishment and development in the country has been launched in January 2024. • The national consultants in charge of the development of the legal and institutional framework regarding MCPAs in Libya are onboard and started already their assignment since Mid-February 2024. The main objective of their mission consists on developing an assessment that compiles, updates and analyses the legal and institutional framework in view of updating the national strategy for MCPAs in Libya to be in line with (i) the framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (ii) the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 SAPBIO and Post-2020 MCPAs/OECMs strategy and (iii) the needs for countries to strengthen their legal and institutional capacities to meet the targets by 2030.	
	Output 1.2: Inventory of marine and coastal sites of conservation interest in Libya and monitoring programmes	2024-06-30	100%	100%	A field survey to identify sites of conservation interest has been undertaken and led to the identification	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					of a list of sites along the whole libyan coast. Several intermediary meetings were held with the consultants to discuss the results. Then, a workshop where the results of the survey were presented and discussed took place on January 26th in Tripoli. It led to the elaboration of the final version of the report on "Rapid assessment of sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coastline". The rapid assessment will be edited and designed and will be shared with targeted stakeholders.	
	Output 1.3: On-site MPA management unit and management plan in at least one MPA	2026-04-30	30%	45%	SPA/RAC and WWF has jointly lunched 9 consultancies during fall 2023 to update and investigate the socio-economic, ecological, and stock assessment for the three MPAs of Ain Al-Ghazala, Farwa Lagoon and the new MPA of Gara Island. results from these consultancies were received and presented to the 8 NGOs, the Ministry of Environment and number of national experts and decision makers, during a dedicated meeting in Tripoli during 07 May 2024. Notes and comments on the studies were collected and forwarded for the consultants to prepare and submit the final reports. These reports will then be combined into one manuscript which will be edited and	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					translated to Arabic and then communicated to the relevant stakeholders.	
2 Participation and institutional strengthening	Output 2.1: Civil society organizations (CSO) participatory platform, with a focus on gender stakeholders	2026-04-30	30%	100%	A call for expression of interest for Libyan Civil Society Organisation to participate in the setting up and implementation of management plans and governance scheme was published in March/April 2023. 8 CSOs were selected and each was linked to one of the MPAs based on their background, interest and previous activities.	S
	Output 2.2: Capacity building programme towards MPA governance, knowledge and management	2026-04-30	0	15%	A questionnaire was distributed among the targeted CSOs during January 2024 to identify their capacity building needs and to identify any challenges that the CSOs are encountering. The results of the questionnaires lead to a meeting on 08 May in which the CSOs were invited to further discuss and elaborate on their requirements and several capacity building themes were identified. These themes will be grouped in 3 Workshops that will take place in each MPA site during summer of 2024. Also, training for specific themes such as Elasmobranchs identification and conservation was provided to members of the CSOs in events such as the Shark Camp which was held in Tunisia during	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					February 2024.	
3 Awareness raising and communication	Output 3.1: Awareness-raising and communication campaigns and materials, on the value and importance of MPAs, targeting the general public and decision makers	2026-04-30	5%	15%	Communication and awareness raising plans being drafted and dedicated webpages on the WWF-NA, IUCN Med and SPA/RAC websites are now active and materials, news and announcements related to the project are included in these pages	MS

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Lack of Political Support	Outcome 1	M	L	L	L				=	"The collaboration framework established among the Executing Agency, the Executing Partners and the involved Libyan institutions and organisations confirmed to be very effective. The Ministry of the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										Environment confirmed its strong support and local communities and stakeholders confirmed their active involvement and participation. The level of the risk is confirmed to Low. To further assist with that, a project officer was assigned in WWF-NA to follow up on the implementation of the project. The candidate selected is Libyan national and its was endorsed by the Libyan Ministry of Environment."
Risk 2: Political instability	Outcome 1	H	M	M	M				=	Although the political instability is confirmed as a risk to project implementation, on the basis of the progress and the outcomes achieved in the reporting period, mostly on the draft law of protected areas in Libya, it is considered that although political instability may possibly affect the expected calendar for the discussion and the approval of the Law by the Parliament, it will most probably not be putting at risk this expected results. The level of the risk is confirmed at Medium.
Risk 3: Local tensions due to loss of access to natural resources or land as a result of MPA creation	All outcomes & outputs	M	L	L	L				=	Initial signals received from the local communities are positive. The proposed approach for the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										elaboration of the MPAs management plans strongly takes into consideration this potential risk. The level of the risk has been reassessed to Low.
Risk 4: Oil concessions standing in the way of MPA establishment	All outcomes & outputs	M	L	L	L				=	The proposed pilot sites identified at project preparation phase have been reassessed by SPA/RAC in coordination with the Libyan Ministry of the Environment on the basis of the developments of the environmental, social and security context in the area and it was recommended to change the pilot site of El Kouf National Park by the new pilot site of Garah Islands for environmental and social relevancy and for security reasons. No risks related to oil concessions were raised for the pilot areas. Consequently the risk has been confirmed to Low.
Risk 5: Climate Change and Variability	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	L	L				=	Future climatic scenarios indicating that the Mediterranean region is one of the most affected by climate change and variability, are confirmed. However, improving the resilience of coastal populations and ecosystems to climatic impacts – increased frequency, duration and intensity of

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										droughts. sea level rise. increased evaporation – is and remains a key objective of the MedProgramme and the MPAs management plans being prepared in the framework of CP 3.1 take this into strong account. On this basis it is not expected that climate change will have a negative impact on the Child Projects execution. although specific activities may be affected by unanticipated adverse effects. For this reason the risk level has been reassessed to Low.
Risk 6: Scarce coordination and synergies between the three project Components	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L				=	There is no change in the risk level with respect to the initial assessment. In the reporting period the three Components and the three Executing Partners worked very well together.
Risk 7: The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic may adversely impact delivery of project activities	All outcomes & outputs	N/A	M	L	L				=	This risk has been assessed as Low. The consequences of the pandemic are disappearing and the risk of new waves is low.
		N/A	M	L	L					The consolidated project risk is estimated at “Low”

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 2: Political instability	Regular communication with GEF Operational Focal Points; organization of the second Project Steering Committee Meeting in presence with the participation of UNEP-MAP MedProgramme. SPA/RAC. IUCN-Med. WWF NA. Libyan Ministry of Environment and the GEF Focal Point of Libya.	Regular communication with GEF Operational Focal Points	Bilateral exchanges with national and local institutions and organisations to facilitate institutional support as well as enabling conditions needed to ensure the participation of stakeholders and the implementation and sustainability of actions and to advance on project activities; increased communication and visibility	from Q3 2024	MedPCU and Executing Partners

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

None

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument		2021-04-26	2021-04-27	2026-10-31	N/A

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Ain-El-Ghazalah. Libya	32.16667	23.33333			Advancing the Ain-El-Ghazalah MPA towards a phase of operational sufficiency by building the capacity of MPA practitioners. developing the management plan through a step-by-step participatory planning process to ensure the effective protection of ecological and socioeconomic values of the area
Farwa Lagoon. Libya	33.106944	11.742778			Advancing the Farwa Lagoon MPA towards a phase of operational sufficiency by

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					building the capacity of MPA practitioners. developing the management plan through a step-by-step participatory planning process to ensure the effective protection of ecological and socioeconomic values of the area
Gharah Islands. Libya	30.78333	19.90000			Advancing the Garah Islands MPA towards a phase of operational sufficiency by building the capacity of MPA practitioners. developing the management plan through a step-by-step participatory planning process to ensure the effective protection of ecological and socioeconomic values of the area

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

NA

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
10158 CP 3-1_Jul 2023_Jun2024- Co-fin report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-09-12 11:43:55	Download